



# KERA

## MID-YEAR CONTENT REPORT

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### FY25

(July 2024-December 2024)

# CONTENT

We create and share exceptional content that reflects communities and enriches audiences across North Texas.

**KERA**

# TV & VIDEO

## LOCAL & STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

### Frame of Mind

KERA's original film series marked its 32nd season in early FY25. The locally produced series highlights independent filmmaking from across Texas. Of note is the fact that the series is drawing a younger audience as compared to other PBS programming, with a significant portion of viewers in the 25-49 age group.



A still from KERA's "Recovering the Stories."

### Recovering the Stories: Exploring the History and Resilience in Dallas Communities

In a partnership with Dallas Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation, KERA's Video team spent months chronicling the history of different neighborhoods and communities in Dallas' racial history. The result was a new six-part series that premiered in early FY25 on KERA TV and streaming, exploring stories from neighborhoods like Fair Park, Little Mexico, Little Asia and more.



KERA celebrated 50 years since introducing America to Monty Python.

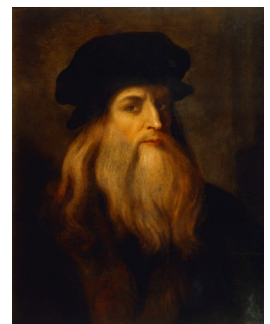
### KERA's 50th Monty Python Anniversary

In 1974, KERA took a chance on a unique British TV show called *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. Thanks to KERA, the show found its way to America and the rest was, as they say, history. KERA celebrated the 50th anniversary of this local debut with a sing-a-long screening of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* at The Texas Theatre.

## NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Leonardo da Vinci

Renowned filmmaker Ken Burns debuted his first documentary on a non-American subject this fall. In this two-part series, Burns' explored Leonardo da Vinci's life, work and profound effects on future generations.



Portrait of Leonardo da Vinci

### Election Coverage

Leading up to and on Election Night 2024, KERA TV provided in-depth coverage from trusted sources, including "PBS News Hour," "Washington Week," "Frontline" and "American Experience." KERA TV also aired both the presidential and vice-presidential debates.

# RADIO & NEWS



At Dreads by Dodie in South Dallas, a group of women discuss the issues that concern them the most in this year's election. Zara Amaechi, KERA

## KERA NEWS

### Election Coverage

In a pivotal election year, KERA News' coverage focused on issues and analysis instead of horse race statistics. Reporters were on the ground in Tarrant, Collin, Denton and Dallas Counties. KERA also provided a custom [voting guide](#), details about where to vote and links to what's on the ballot. KERA and The Texas Newsroom also hosted young-voter listening sessions across North Texas, to hear directly from young voters on their perspectives.

### Government Accountability

KERA's Government Accountability team continues to hold our elected officials accountable for their actions, through in-depth and continuous reporting. KERA News' Miranda Suarez continues to break stories about the Tarrant County jail system, where almost 60 people have died in the last five years. KERA was also the first newsroom to report on [safety violations](#) at the Giles W. Dalby West Texas private prison. It was shut down in September, after the prison failed a state inspection without informing its clients.

### A New Way Home

KERA News journalists Christopher Connelly and Yfat Yossifor spent almost a year reporting on a homeless encampment under an East Dallas overpass as it was closed and its residents moved into long-term housing. In a 4-part series called [A New Way Home](#) that debuted in the fall, they shared what they discovered.



Richard Garrett, center, talks to KERA. Yfat Yossifor, KERA

### Education

KERA News and its partners also covered several stories regarding North Texas education, including a story from The Fort Worth Report on how 100 Tarrant County teachers are under investigation for allegedly obtaining their teacher certifications through fraudulent means.

### Health

KERA reporters also keep North Texans up to date on the latest in health, science and technology across our region, including a story on a new [overdose prevention hotline](#) in Dallas; the [ongoing effects](#) of the Supreme Court reversal of Roe V. Wade in North Texas; Attorney General Ken Paxton's [suing of doctors](#) allegedly providing gender-affirming care to minors; and more.

# RADIO & NEWS



### Think with Krys Boyd

In the fall, the team hosted its signature event series, Think & Drink, at the Angelika Theater in Dallas. The event featured a timely conversation on how to talk through disagreement with Dr. Harville Hendrix and Dr. Helen LaKelly Hunt. “Think” now airs on more than 200 stations nationwide.

## COLLABORATIONS



### The Texas Newsroom

The public radio journalism collaboration led by KERA welcomed two new reporters this year — Blaise Gainey as State Capitol Reporter and Stella M. Chávez as Investigative Reporter. In 2024, The Texas Newsroom provided 400 stories to NPR, so national audiences heard consistent reporting from Texas, by Texas journalists. Later in FY25, the team will be focused on coverage for the next Texas Legislative Session.



### Fort Worth Report

KERA welcomed James Hartley as Arlington Government Accountability Reporter this past fall. James is based out of The Fort Worth Report’s offices in Tarrant County to provide on-the-ground coverage of Fort Worth and Arlington.



### Denton Record-Chronicle

Denton’s primary source for local news continues to thrive in its home with KERA. In November, Denton Record-Chronicle Sports Reporter Brett Vito launched a series with KERA’s Andrew Garcia, featuring North Texas sports coverage that ties into trending conversations in North Texas. The Record-Chronicle team also launched three new newsletters this fiscal year, to connect more deeply with audiences — Best of Denton, Things to Do and Puzzles & Games — plus real-time breaking news alerts.

### Student Reporting

Southern Methodist University journalism students and KERA are collaborating on a series of stories that explore challenges college students are facing in finding affordable housing while universities scramble for more living spaces to meet the needs of growing enrollments.

# ARTS & MUSIC



The KXT Team

## KXT

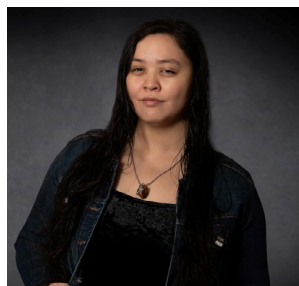
Over the summer, KXT was thrilled to welcome the return of its Summer Concert Series. This year, the series moved across North Texas, to host free, local concerts in Fort Worth, Dallas and Plano.

In the fall, KXT turned 15, and there was a lot to celebrate. The station teamed up with Whataburger to create a special record featuring all rising, local artists. *Homegrown Bites Vol. 1* was distributed each Wednesday in October at various Whataburger locations in North Texas to help celebrate Homegrown Music Month.

Also during Homegrown Music Month, KXT produced its third annual Get Loud with KXT concert. This year's lineup included Abraham Alexander, The Rosemont Kings and DJ Bella Scratch at Ferris Wheelers in Dallas. The team was also excited to welcome Jessica Waffles in early FY25, as host of The Homegrown Music show and the Homegrown Bites feature. KERA's Audience Development team was essential in executing these successful events.



The cover of KXT's *Homegrown Bites Vol 1*



Homegrown Music Show Host, Jessica Waffles

# KXT 91.7

## WRR

WRR continues to provide an essential platform for local arts groups. In early FY25, the station launched an accessible submission page on [wrr101.org](http://wrr101.org), where local composers can submit their work for WRR consideration. Also, WRR's "Focus on the Arts" series provided several local artist spotlights on the Dallas Bach Society, Chickasaw composer Jerod Tate, Shakespeare Dallas and more.

WRR was also proud to broadcast the Dallas Opera's entire 2023-2024 season, as well as complete concerts by the Irving Symphony Orchestra and the UNT Wind Ensemble.



In December, the WRR team returned to the Dallas Arts District for an annual favorite. "Caroling in the Arts District" features five days of free concerts, open to the public at Moody Performance Hall and broadcast live on WRR. This year's featured artists included the Booker T. Washington High School choir, Arts District Chorale, The South Dallas Concert Choir, Orpheus Chamber Singers, The Women's Chorus of Dallas, Turtle Creek Chorale, Verdigris Ensemble, Temple Emanu-El, The Texas Boys Choir and Singing Girls of Texas.

# WRR {101}

# ARTS & MUSIC



Mariana Teran, left, and Leslie Pacheco, right, pose during The Market on the Strip, a weekly market in Dallas' Oak Lawn neighborhood on Oct. 20, 2024



Artists collaborate at Art Access' event

## ARTS ACCESS

The importance of KERA and The Dallas Morning News' arts journalism collaboration was evident in early FY25, as reporter [Liz Myong](#) closely followed controversy at Dallas Black Dance Theater. The company fired its entire staff of professional dancers, and Liz reported on every aspect of the story including protests, city funding, and the company's first performance with new dancers. This coverage is a reminder that arts reporting can often be critical breaking news for a community, and how important it is to have access to arts journalism like Arts Access.

Arts Access also continues to go beyond digital and on-air reporting. The team hosted an Art Hack in November in Oak Cliff, Dallas, in order to help artists learn about breaking into the art and music world. The event explored topics like making a case for funding, art business operations, and the power of personal branding.

# EDUCATION

KERA's Education team continues to expand its Learning Neighborhood model into other areas of North Texas. After successfully launching the learning and family engagement model in the Bachman Lake area of Dallas, the team is expanding into West Dallas and Fort Worth.

In FY25, the team welcomed new team members, Meagan Bolton and Valeria Hernandez.



Valeria Hernandez, KERA Family Engagement Specialist



Meagan Bolton, KERA Family Engagement Specialist

**A LEARNING NEIGHBORHOOD** is an innovative model of early childhood education.

In a "Learning Neighborhood," PBS stations like KERA work with local community partners and families to help facilitate learning anytime, anywhere — through accessible workshops, events, and other experiences. Learning Neighborhoods specifically target improvement in kindergarten readiness, 3rd-grade reading and 4th-grade math.

**100%**

of families surveyed responded that they will use the activities they learned in KERA workshops with their children.

**86%**

of families surveyed felt MORE confident creating school-readiness opportunities for their child(ren) at home after a KERA workshop.

**97%**

of families surveyed believe PBS KIDS resources help children and caregivers learn together at home.





**KERA**